

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed May 16, 2007. Claims 1-34, 36-134 and 136-232 are pending. Of these, claims 40-121 and 171-232 stand withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claims 35 and 135 have been canceled. Claim 169 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 27-35 and 135-149 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. By this amendment, claim 135 has been rewritten in independent form by moving its limitations to claim 122, from which claim 135 depended. Claim 122, and claims 123-134 and 136-170 depending from it, are allowable over the prior art of record.

Rejections over Franchi

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 14, 15, 36-38, 122, 128-130, 150-152, 156 and 161-164 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Franchi US 6,030,335 ("Franchi"). Claims 122, 128-130, 150-152, 156 and 161-164 were addressed above and are allowable over Franchi due to the amendment to claim 122.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate subject matter from claim 35, but without including the subject matter of intervening claims. Neither Franchi nor any other prior art reference of record shows a device with a first layer configured to engage internal vasculature and a second layer coupled to the first layer and having a stiffness greater than the first layer, wherein the second layer has two ends configured to be removably coupled. Claim 1, and claims 2-34 and 36-39 depending from it, are therefore patentable over Franchi and the other prior art of record.

Please charge any fees due for this response to Deposit Account No. 50-4050.

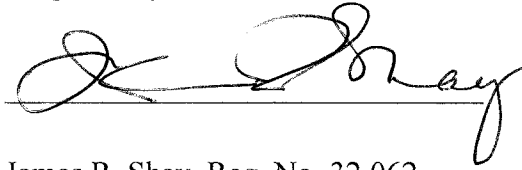
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that claims 1-34, 36-39, 122-134 and 136-170 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of all claims pending in this application. If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 15, 2007

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. R. Shay", is written over a horizontal line.

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